

Kentucky Youth Tobacco Survey (KYTS) 2010 Middle School Fact Sheet

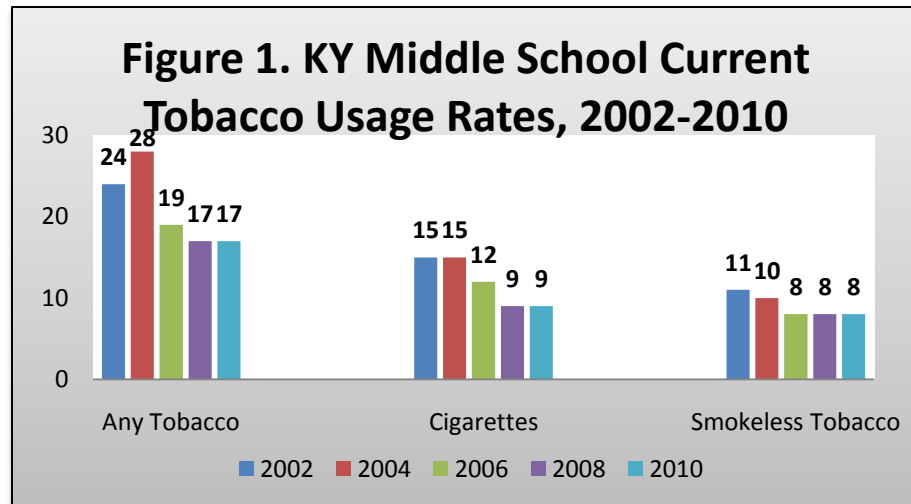
In the spring of 2010, the Kentucky Department for Public Health, Tobacco Control and Prevention Program, conducted a statewide survey with more than 5,000 middle and high school students. The Kentucky Youth Tobacco Survey (KYTS) asked students about their attitudes and beliefs regarding tobacco use, and about their own tobacco use.

Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, statistical methods were used by which a representative sample of Kentucky youth was surveyed. As participants were randomly selected, findings can be generalized.

Tobacco Use Prevalence

Figure 1 illustrates trends in tobacco usage rates among Kentucky middle school students. Since 2000, current smoking among Kentucky middle school students has declined by 60%. While significant progress in decreasing tobacco usage rates has occurred since 2000, the slightly increasing trends from 2010, as depicted below, demonstrate the need for continued commitment to preventing youth initiation.

- **9%** of middle school students indicated that they smoked cigarettes. This represents no change since 2008.



- **16.6%** of middle school students indicated that they used tobacco products. In 2008, **17%** of middle school students reported using tobacco products. This represents a decrease in usage of tobacco products by **2.5%**.
- **7.8%** of middle school students indicated that they used smokeless tobacco products. In 2008, **8%** of middle school students reported smokeless tobacco use. This represents a decrease in usage of smokeless tobacco products by **2.5%**.
- **5.3%** of middle school students indicated that they smoked cigars. In 2008, **6%** of middle school students reported smoking cigars. This represents an **11.6%** decrease in cigar smoking.

Secondhand Smoke

- **47.8%** of middle school non-smokers, and **86.6%** of smokers, reported being exposed to secondhand smoke in a room in the seven days preceding the survey.

- **37.2%** of middle school non-smokers, and **81.9%** of smokers, reported riding in a car with someone smoking cigarettes in the seven days preceding the survey.

Smoking Cessation

Among middle school tobacco users, desire to quit smoking and attempts to quit smoking decreased from 2008 to 2010.

- Nearly one-half (**43.4%**) of Kentucky's middle school students who use tobacco would like to quit smoking, which represents a decrease from 2008 (**51.3%**).
- Over one-half (**58.7%**) of Kentucky's middle school students who use tobacco have attempted to quit smoking within the past 12 months, which is significantly lower than 2008 (**65%**).
- Nearly one-half (**62.9%**) of middle school respondents were taught at school this year the dangers of tobacco use.

Access and Purchase of Cigarettes

Most middle school students get their cigarettes from another person rather than buying them directly from a store or other vendor.

- Among middle school students, the most common way to get cigarettes is to give money to someone else to buy them (**23.7%**), followed closely by borrowing from someone else (**22.1%**).
- Over one-third (**35.1%**) of current middle school smokers under age 18 bought their last pack of cigarettes in a gas station within 30 days preceding the survey.
- Nearly three-fourths (**74.1%**) of current middle school smokers under age 18 who bought their cigarettes in a store were not asked to show proof of age.
- Seven out of ten (**70%**) of current middle school smokers under age 18 who bought cigarettes in a store were not refused cigarettes because of their age.

Sampling Methods

The survey sample is a 2-stage cluster design. In the first stage, schools are selected randomly within the grade range specified with a probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes are randomly selected from within the selected schools and all the students within a selected class are surveyed. The survey was conducted between April and May 2010. Ninety middle schools participated. A sample of 4,924 students was selected to participate according to CDC's guidelines and, of these, 4,275 completed usable questionnaires.

Questions concerning this project or additional data request may be addressed to:

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